

General Nathan F. Twining
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Twining:

I have discussed at some length with General Cabell the planned Air Force U-2 program as presented in your letter of 2 February 1957.

Your approval of the deployment of Detachment C to Atsugi, Japan, is greatly appreciated. As soon as Admiral Burke grants us access to that base we shall arrange to have necessary hangar modifications carried out expeditiously and subsequently to have the Detachment deployed. We will make additional space available to the Air Force [redacted] just as 25X1 rapidly as possible so that the Air Force U-2 training can proceed there free from the limitations currently imposed by the presence of Detachment C.

When Detachment C completes its move [redacted] only a 25X1 small group of CIA representatives will remain there and the only continuing activities of this Agency will be the completion of the research and development program related to this project. I may remind you that the development work which remains to be completed is highly classified which precludes its move to another location and is of very direct interest to the Air Force. I am confident that our remaining requirements will not seriously interfere with the Air Force program.

The senior CIA representative remaining [redacted] after the deployment of Detachment C will be a support commander who will be responsible for the administration of base support and who will handle relations with the company that furnishes base maintenance and messing

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25X1
25X1 and relations [redacted] concerning the support of activities at [redacted]. Two senior security officers will act as advisers to the USAF charge of security. [redacted] will handle the remaining effort on our final pieces of equipment. CIA communications will be needed in sending and receiving Agency message traffic men and administrative clerks will assist in the base support of these Agency personnel [redacted]. [redacted] stand this procedure has been discussed and agreed to by US planning groups. Except for this small Agency group, the USAF will complete operational and security control during its occupancy.

I completely accept your view that the USAF must expand expeditiously as possible, against the contingency of a war, its reconnaissance capability based on the U-2. While I would fully in your plan for bringing this capability into being, I draw your attention at this time to a problem which may arise in the steps outlined in your letter are taken as and when planned. I do so not for the purpose of proposing that you now modify the Air Force program but because I believe we should be prepared to review this problem at a later date if it should arise.

The problem is that of maintaining the plausibility of explanations that have been given out or have been allowed to explain the nature and activities of our Detachments and the reasons for their presence at various locations overseas. I am sure you share my profound hope that we will be granted permission to have them resume overflights both in Europe and in the Far East beginning in the early summer. Though such overflights might be closely controlled in timing by higher authority, most certainly a great deal of vital intelligence could be obtained, even with a few flights. Such operations were about to begin or were underway when we openly established ourselves at Laughlin Air Force Base as the 5th Wing, previously known as a Strategic Reconnaissance organization recently redesignated a Weather Reconnaissance Wing, I fear the consequences could be serious. The danger is that the association of our Detachments with a known photo reconnaissance wing, and with the recent redesignation of that wing, would give rise to much speculation both in the general public and in the aviation press concerning the true mission of our units, their use of what would then be revealed as a cover story, and their possible connection with SAC. I am sure you recognize that such a development could prejudice the chances for a continuation of overflight activity with the U-2.

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I realize, of course, that events may render this fear irrelevant or may lead us to conclude that the risk is not sufficiently serious to justify any modification of your program. I do believe, however, that it will be desirable for us to review the situation together about 1 May 1957 or, in any case, several weeks before the redesignation of the 4028th and 4029th Squadrons or their move to Laughlin Air Force Base with U-2 aircraft. If we should find at that time that the redesignation or move would jeopardize the security of our joint Project, I hope you would then consider making necessary modifications in your program so as not to jeopardize a going action so vital to the interests of both our Agencies. I also request that in the meanwhile every effort be made to maintain a degree of compartmentation between the Air Force units [redacted] and the 4030th Wing 25X1 so that the former will not come to be associated with the latter either publicly or widely within the Air Force until the actual move takes place.

Subject only to the above comments, I concur in the USAF proposed program presented in your letter. I wish to assure you again we will do everything in our power to facilitate and expedite the program.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

CONCURRENCE:

DDCI

[Signature]

Project Director

JAG:hh (5 Feb 57)

Rewritten: RMB:gjg (6 Feb 57)

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